

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 PER-05 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 CU-04

PC-04 IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 COA-02 COME-00

CIEP-02 DRC-01 /200 W

----- 127389

R 022309Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8784

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS UPON PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: QUITO 5121

1. I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS AT 11:30 A.M. MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA. FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES (HAVING RETURNED EARLIER THAT MORNING FROM HEADING ECUADOREAN DELEGATION TO UNGA), PRESIDENTIAL AIDES AND PROTOCOL OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM CHAPLIN, DEFATT BLAIKIE, USAID DIRECTOR CODY, AND PAO BELL. IN DEPARTURE FROM USUAL PROCEDURE SET FORTH IN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE, PREPARED REMARKS WERE OMITTED AFTER PRESENTING LETTERS OF RECALL AND ACCREDITATION, PRESIDENT AND I ENTERED INTO INFORMAL CONVERSATION.

2. PRESIDENT WELCOMED ME CORDIALLY TO ECUADOR AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT I WOULD HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MISSION. HE REFERRED IN COMPLIMENTARY TERMS TO MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR BURNS, AND SAID HE HOPED THAT ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD DRAW INCREASINGLY CLOSER TOGETHER. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUBSEQUENT HALF
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HOOR CONVERSATION:

A. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO ECUADOR OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND ASKED FOR OUR CONTINUED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.

B. REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF WHEAT SUPPLIES, THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR UNITED STATES HELP. ACKNOWLEDGING THE DIFFICULTY OF THE PROBLEM FOR US BECAUSE IN PART OF WHEAT SALES TO THE USSR, HE ASKED THAT WE BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR IN ASSURING ITS WHEAT SUPPLIES. I REPLIED THAT I KNEW THE QUESTION OF WHEAT SUPPLY WAS A MOST DIFFICULT ONE, BUT THAT I WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

C. THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ECUADOREAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FINANCING FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND FOR THE LOAN PENDING BEFORE THE IDB FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIO GUAYAS BASIN (THE BABAHYOYO PROJECT) SPECIFICALLY. STATING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD UNOFFICIALLY THAT NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL WOULD CONSIDER U.S. POSITION IN NEAR FUTURE, HE ASKED THAT U.S. SUPPORT THE ECUADOREAN APPLICATION. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

D. REFERRING TO COMMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN MEXICO REGARDING FUTURE U.S. LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THIS SIGNIFIED A "NEW IMPULSE" FOR U.S. LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT I WAS OPTIMISTIC IN THIS REGARD, HE CONCURRED VIGOROUSLY.

E. HE RECALLED HIS TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES AT FORT LEAVENWORTH AND BESPOKE HIS REGARD FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PEOPLE.

F. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HIS HOPE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES AND FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE DIVIDED US. HE REFERRED ONLY ONCE TO THE FISHING ISSUE, AND THAT VERY MUCH IN PASSING.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS BROUGHT INTO FOCUS SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH WE HAD BEGUN TO CONJECTURE, NAMELY THAT GOE HAS CONCLUDED THAT WITH APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ARRIVAL OF A NEW AMBASSADOR, U.S. POLICY TOWARD ECUADOR MAY UNDERGO CHANGE. THAT GOE IS PREPARED, AT THIS JUNCTURE AT LEAST, TO GIVE US
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THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT ON THIS IS TO MY MIND EVIDENCED BY:
--OMISSION FROM FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES' UNGA SPEECH OF ANY REFERENCE TO NOTIFICATION UNDER FPA LEGISLATION;
--FONMIN'S RATHER CURSORY REFERENCE IN THE SAME SPEECH TO THE FISHING ISSUE AND THE MODERATE TREATMENT ACCORDED THIS PART OF HIS STATEMENT QP THE PRESS HERE (QUITO 5075);
--DEPARTURE FROM STANDARD PROTOCOL PRECEDURE IN OMITTING PREPARED REMARKS BY ME AND THE PRESIDENT, WHICH, WHATEVER THE REASON,

PERMITTED THE PRESIDENT TO AVOID THE REQUIRED PUBLIC DEFENSE OF
ECUADOREAN SEA AND FISHING POLICY;
--OMISSION IN THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION OF ALL BUT THE MOST
PASSING REFERENCE TO THE FISHING PROBLEM;
--THE PRESIDENT'S CLEAR EMPHASIS ON A POSITIVE DESIRE FOR CLOSER
RELATIONS; AND
--THE FACT THAT PROMULGATION OF NEW AND MORE SEVERE GENERAL GOE
FISHERIES LEGISLATION HAS THIS FAR BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE.

I OF COURSE DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE
INDICATORS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF MY BRIEF STAY HERE, NOR
WOULD I WHISH TO OFFER THE PROGNOSIS THAT SOME SORT OF PANACEA IS IN
THE OFFING FOR A PROBLEM WHICH HAS PROVEN SO INTRACTABLE TO SUCH
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED PEOPLE OVER SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.
AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE FACTORS WHICH SUGGEST TO ME THAT THE
GROUND MAY POSSIBLY BE FERTILE FOR A NEW INITIATIVE. I HOPE TO
ADDRESS
THIS IN A LATER MESSAGE.
BREWSTER

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